

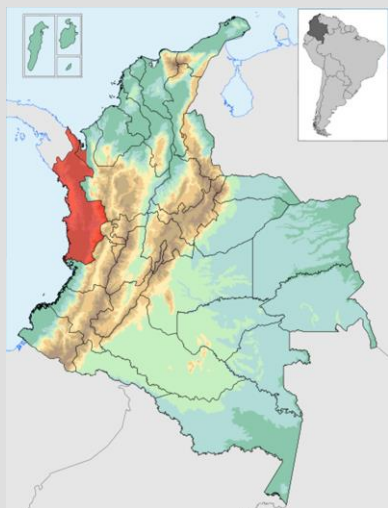


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**Project – “Resolution of Land and Natural Resources
Conflicts in Colombia”
Focus “Gender”**

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

01 October – 30 December 2013



Submitted by

MERCY CORPS COLOMBIA (Primary Applicant)

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Acronyms

CCL	Local Community Council
CMM	Conflict Management & Mitigation Office, USAID
COCOMABOCAS	Community Council of Bocas de Atrato & Leoncito
COCOMACIA	Community Council of the Integrated Farmers Association of the Atrato
COCOMASUR	Community Council of Tolo River, Southern Coastal Zone of Acandí
COCOMAUNGUIA	Community Council of the Lower Atrato of Ungia
INCODER	Colombian Institute for Rural Development
MSI	Management Systems International

1. Executive Summary & Implementation

During October, Mercy Corps carried out the third regional exchange under this award between Colombia and Guatemala. Four women leaders from the communitarian councils, and one female member of the Victims Unit participated in this event. Mercy Corps Guatemala and Colombia, the local partners, and the leaders of the ethnic communities learned about proven methodologies, learned lessons, and successful practices led by rural women and government institutions regarding conflict resolution of land and natural resources and the design and implementation of public policies and projects concerning participation, rural development, and land restitution to victims of the armed conflict.



Picture No 1. Afrocolombian leader women in the Guatemala exchange.

During the timeframe of this report, the Gender and New Masculinities component of the Work Plan of the project Conflict Resolution of Land and Natural Resources was disseminated. The process of dissemination was made with the Board of Directors of the Community Councils, such as: COCOMASUR, COCOMAUNGUIA, and COCOMACIA. It is important to mention that during this process Mercy Corps' Gender Toolkit was also shared.

The Board of Directors of COCOMACIA and COCOMAUNGUIA stated that the main goal of the Gender and New Masculinities component is to collectively reflect and create an awareness of the power relationships established between men, women, boys, and girls in the territory. This awareness process will allow the building of a joint gender policy focusing on ethnicity, and positive actions towards transforming power relationships that make vulnerable women's rights, and their access and use of the land.

Picture No 2. Women of COCOMACIA's Gender Commission



The Councils' Directors showed an interest in promoting active participation of all community members to strengthening the black community's ethnic cosmovision¹ regarding their territory. This will guarantee women's rights, and, for the first time, the participation of boys and girls. For this reason, it is important for each member to review the relationship they have, and have had with accessing and using the land, and identify the equal or unequal relationships between men and women. This will promote the well-being of the communities without affecting the essential elements of their black culture."

After the dissemination of the operating plan with the community councils, the Mercy Corps team, worked with women's groups in the definition of the content of the training workshops in leadership and social skills that will be executed under the project. Working sessions were conducted to design the content of the training process in gender and new masculinities. Women expressed that "the training process instills the capacity in men and women to cope with changes in interpersonal and community relationships of all members of the community councils, allow new leaders to make generational change, and make decisions about tenure and land use.



Picture No 3. COCOMACIA's leader

¹ The ethnic worldview of the black community is defined by the harmonious coexistence between human beings and the natural world.

COCOMACIA's Gender Commission defined a detailed work plan with roles and responsibilities. They also focused on the communities and the geographical zones where the trainings on Gender will take place: San Francisco de Ichó, Bocas de Tanando and Tagachí. There, they will be working with different population groups including men, women, boys, girls, youth, and the elderly. For COCOMACIA, this process enables them to collectively develop a gender policy and affirmative actions for women's rights. Mercy Corps will facilitate this work through the consultants of the Collective of New Masculinities.

The consultants have been working with Mercy Corps since 2010 and are responsible for facilitating the formation processes on Gender and Territory and New Masculinities that were implemented in Community Councils of COCOMASUR, COCOMACIA, and COCOMAUNGUIA under this initiative. The group also provides women and men conceptual and methodological tools for gender analysis and construction of domestic policies that promote the rights of women to land tenure and land use, also, to achieve an equitable relationship between men and women of collective lands.

Regarding land and natural resources conflict resolution and land ordering for the local councils, COCOMAUNGUIA, the mediators' technical team, the community topographers, and Mercy Corps' technical team, developed an operational plan.

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps also worked on activity planning for two programmatic components with COCOMASUR. The first was centered on an analysis of a solicitation of a land title in which nine local community councils that make up COCOMASUR do not have the legal certainty of the land where they are located. INCODER must recognize their ancestral presence; define the properties, boundaries and ownership of the land.

The second was an initiative to build a gender policy to be implemented inside COCOMASUR that will improve gender equality in regards to the access and use of the land by women and youth. In terms of Land Conflict Mediation, COCOMASUR directed its efforts to do a follow up of the adjudication of plots in usufruct inside the Local Councils of Chugandi and Titiza.

Dissemination of Mercy Corps' Gender Toolkit with the technical teams of the Community Councils

Mercy Corps' Gender Toolkit offers the Community Councils the tools to analyze gender in their community processes. Mercy Corps provided training to educate Council members and introduced methodological tools.



Picture No 4. COCOMAUNGUA's women group on a planning workshop.

At the end of the policy dissemination exercises, the technical teams of the Councils were committed to replicate the lessons learned about gender with men, women, boys and girls of the local councils. They acknowledged that the “construction of successful stories” for the identification of new roles and good cultural practices that are sensible to gender, must become visible at the community level to transform the actual inequalities in the everyday gender relationships. In this regard, they made a commitment to use the matrix of actions and responsibilities; access and control of resources, as a tool to sensitize about social, cultural, and economic factors affecting the gender relationships.

Campaign for women's rights for the access and use of land in Quibdó

In October and during the Traditional Celebrations in honor of San Francisco de Asis, COCOMACIA's Gender Commission carried out a campaign to increase awareness about women's rights to the access and use of land through communal dialogues and other cultural communication tools such as videos, photographs, theater and radio with 90 people (38 men and 43 women). These activities also served to socialize black women's ancestral practices of agricultural production.

The role of women farmers inside the territory was highlighted, signaling that legal land tenancy has always been in the hands of men. For this reason, women have been limited not only to the access of land, but also in the decision making about the use and practices of agricultural production. Other reflections emerged about the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the collective territory carried out by multinationals without acknowledging the right of a Previous Consultation, Free and Informed, violating ethnic land rights of the black communities and the internal statutes of COCOMACIA.



Picture No 5. Gender Commission's Campaign for women's rights during the celebrations in honor of San Francisco de Asis, Chocó

The Gender Commission identified that current mining processes inside the territory have been leading to new environmental risks related to water contamination, sedimentation of the rivers, and increasing food insecurity. Additionally, it was verified that young men and women, boys and girls that are involved in the mining activity are more prone to dropping out of school, and as a related and adjacent factor, this population is beginning to see a rise in child prostitution activities.

2. Indicators

Table No 1: Achievements from October - December 2013

Indicator	Indicator Description	Indicator type	Desagregation by sex	Total Year 1	Goal Year 1	% Goal Achieve Y1	Year 2 QR1 13	Year 2 QR2 13	Year 2 QR3 13	Year 2 QR4 13	Total Year 2	Goal Year 2	% Goal Achieve Y2	Year 3 QR1 14	Total Year 3	Gender Goal Year 3	% Gender Goal Achieved Y3	Cumm. Year1 +Year2+ Year3	LoP Goal	% LoP Achieved	
1	Number of previously existing land and natural resources conflicts resolved in areas receiving USG assistance for mitigation of land conflicts.	CMM		133	80	166%	37	0	0	0	37	40	93%	0	0	40	0%	170	160	106,3%	
2	# of people participating in USG –assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed with the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Direct beneficiaries of resolved conflict cases)	CMM	Man	85	110	105%	12	0	16	0	28	40	128%	0	0	0	n.a	167	190	87,9%	
			Women	31			15	0	8	0	23			0	0	40	0%				
3	# of people participating in USG –assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed with the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Participation in training, local exchanges)	CMM	Man	1.083	400	457%	68	0	0	0	68	110	148%	0	0	0	n.a	1.989	730	272,5%	
			Women	743			95	0	0	0	95			0	0	220	0%				
4	# of regional exchanges concerning conflicts over land and natural resources between technical teams, staff members, and leaders of Colombia and Guatemala.	MC		2	2	100%	0	1	0	0	1	1	100%	1	1	2	50%	4	5	80,0%	
5	Number of households that have obtained property rights as a result of USG assistance.	MC	Beneficiaries	Families	48	30	160%	0	0	0	224	224	15	1493%	0	0	100	0%	272	145	187,6%
				Women	48	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	163	163	n/a	n/a	0	0	100	0%	211	n.a	n.a
				Man	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	61	61	n/a	n/a	0	0	n.a.	n.a	61	n.a	n.a
			Titles	Women	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	171	171	n/a	n/a	0	0	n.a.	n.a	171	n.a	n.a
				Man	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	65	65	n/a	n/a	0	0	n.a.	n.a	65	n.a	n.a
6	# of peace building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engages conflict-affected citizens affected in peace and reconciliation processes			4	4	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	n.a	4	4	100,0%	
7	# of land and natural resource guides with a gender focus distributed to Afro-Colombian Community Councils	MC		0	0	0%	0	0	0	171	171	137	125%	0	0	0	n.a	171	137	124,8%	
8	# of users in the RedTierras disaggregated	MC		171	150	114%	47	41	20	64	172	150	115%	38	38	40	95%	381	340	112,1%	
9	# of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance	CMM	Women	0	0	0%	33	0	0	0	33	15	220%	0	0	40	0%	33	55	60,0%	

3. Activities & Results

Objective 1. To empower Afrocolombian women to gain new abilities for land conflict resolution and land tenancy security.

Result 1. At least 40 conflicts related with land and natural resources have been resolved by Afrocolombian women of the 64 Local Councils, therefore, increasing land access and use for 100 women.

Activity 1.1. Afrocolombian women, leaders of the three communitarian Councils COCOMACIA, COCOMASUR, and COCOMAUNGUIA lead mediation sessions about disputes on land and natural resources.

During the operational planning, it was defined that the management and resolution of 40 land conflicts will be carried out in the Municipality of Unguía; the conflicts handled will be of the intra-communitarian kind, and the team of female mediators and communitarian topographers will be led by a gender focal point of COCOMAUNGUIA. The leader of the female mediators will be accompanied by a Mercy Corps' mediation consultant, and the team of COCOMACIA's Commission of Autonomy and Territory, regarding the training on systems of geo-reference information and GPS usage.

To this effect, COCOMASUR and Mercy Corps teams carried out the analysis of the extra-communitarian conflict of land titling to the nine local councils of COCOMASUR and presented the findings to INCODER. In this regard, COCOMASUR established that its interest in providing trainings on mediation and ethnic land rights will be focused on the participative creation of a document that the Council must present to the INCODER for the new titling of the zones where the local councils are located.

In these aspects, the mediators and topographers of the communitarian team in Acandí are working on the document to request the collective titling of COCOMASUR.

Activity 1.2. Build Afrocolombian women's capacities on GPS usage and interpretation of GIS maps for land tenancy security and planning of land use.

Mercy Corps' technical team and the Board of Directors of the community councils validated the contents of the training plans on GPS usage and management, and geo-referencing systems information that will be carried out with the people of the local councils. They also identified the names of three young people—one of each council—that will be participating in the ArGis 10.0 class. This class will be given during the month of April 2014.

Activity 1.3. Elaborate and disseminate methodological guides with protocols for land conflict resolution focused on gender equality and Afrocolombian women's leadership approach.

The participating councils received from Mercy Corps the Methodological Guide: *Resolving land and natural resources conflicts in Chocó*. This guide will be a methodological tool to be used by male and female mediators, and groups of women, to strengthen their knowledge about conflict resolution. Likewise, it will be an educational aide for the training processes that are part of the project.

Activity 1.4 Land and Natural Resources Conflict Resolution –Implementation of the Route for Case Management

There have not been any cases resolved during the October-December 2013 quarter because Mercy Corps and partners worked on operational planning processes during this period.

Activity 1.5. Establish rights for the use of the land of at least 100 Afrocolombian women through usufruct documents and/or legal certainty of the titles of the government vacant lots.

This goal is fulfilled in the project's framework, a total of 272 property titles were issued of which 211 were to Afrocolombian women heads of household and 61 to men. As an added value, it was agreed with COCOMAUNGUIA that around 20 usufructs will be given to women heads of household in the Local Councils of El Puerto and Ticolé. They will be issued during the month of May at the Local Council Assembly reunion by the Board of Directors' High Council according to Law 70.

On the other hand, we are revising together with the INCODER's Territorial Direction and the Mayor's Office of Unguía, the possibility to adjudicate property rights to 72 families with government vacant lots, benefiting male and female farmers from the Municipality of Unguía. Adjudication will take place during April 2014.

Objective 2. Strengthen the Gender Commissions of the Afrocolombian Community Councils and groups of women throughout exchanges of experiences and learned lessons in Colombia, Guatemala, and Bolivia on the subject of gender equality and land and natural resources conflict resolution.

Result 2. Activities of exchange of experiences about land and natural resources conflict resolution are carried out using regional visits and the virtual red RedTierras, resulting in the strengthening of the COCOMACIA's Gender Commission and the three groups of Afrocolombian women in the Lower Atrato.

Activity 2.1. Exchange technical information and the experiences of Afrocolombian women and other women, concerning land tenancy, conflict resolution, and ethno-territorial rights thorough cross visits and the virtual network RedTierras (www.redtierras.com).

During the reporting period, 40 new users were registered in RedTierras from the following countries: Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia, and one user from Morocco. These users are interested in acquiring new knowledge about access, distribution, and management of the collective territories.

Likewise, from October to December, 2,532 users visited the platform RedTierras. The main page was the most visited for the members, for a total of 3,686 visits. The most visited pages of RedTierras were: the main page, then, the group of

on-line trainings about managing virtual platforms, the group of registry for cadastral information, technology and information serving ethnic communities, and the group of victims' laws and land restitution.

The main page is the most visited because the starting banner gives the users a guideline to review the most important contents. It is important to mention that the blogs that have been published appear in the lower part of the main page. These tools allow the users to inform themselves in a short time about the contents of the current publications.

Social networks like Twitter and Facebook provide an effective way to promote content (news and activities) that are important for the project. Currently, these networks are being consolidated as important communication tools for the users of our platform in order to be informed about the project's advancements. The blog is an important tool to expose diverse topics for the virtual community because they present points of view, inform, and establish feedback with other users about the information that is being disseminated through RedTierras. During the reporting period, the blogs that received the most visits were: 1) the women's rights awareness by COCOMACIA during the Traditional Celebrations in honor of San Francisco de Asís in Quibdó; 2) the memoirs of the land conflict resolution agreement of the Office of Agrarian Affairs and Mercy Corps in Guatemala and; 3) the areas of protection for the CANA turtle, the biggest turtle in the world, by COCOMASUR.

In addition, vital participation content were promoted, such as videos, photos, and blogs made by the users of the platform. The goal is that the involved communities will be directly empowered by using RedTierras, and that they will use it to tell their stories and experiences and have them published in blogs or photographic files in RedTierras. The following videos were published during this period: i) Regional experiences exchange of the Colombia Guatemala encounter; ii) San Francisco de Asís Celebrations in Quibdó and the role of COCOMACIA's gender commission during this event and; iii) Good practices of the company MINERCONDOR. Due to the contents of the publications, 15 publication visits were identified plus 40 commentaries from the users of RedTierras.

Activity 2.2. Exchanges of Experiences in Guatemala

During October the regional exchange Colombia Guatemala took place. Four women leaders from COCOMASUR and COCOMAUNGUA participated, as well as women members of the Victims Unit. During the exchange, Mercy Corps promoted dialogue between women that are part of the black community's process in Colombia, Q'echi indigenous women in Guatemala and the Governmental Authorities of both countries that are responsible for the public policies directed towards women and land rights. The exchanges helped to identify the good practices, methodologies, and tools to improve the responses of the civil society and the institutions to face discrimination factors that violate or make vulnerable women's rights to access to the land and their participation in the use of it.

The most important lessons learned by the participants were:

- a. Knowledge about public policies of access, inclusion, and participation of women in the rural development in Guatemala.
- b. Dissemination of proposals regarding key topics to train women, and the use of technological tools to guarantee women's rights to access the land and the use of it.
- c. Dialogue of knowledge and analysis of concepts such as: gender perspectives, differential approach, and land rights.
- d. Recognition of local or national programs and projects promoting the participation of rural women in Colombia and Guatemala.

- e. Delineation of the regional strategy of RedTierras using the learned lessons and successful practices of the participant rural women.
- f. Knowledge about the legislation on integral attention and land restitution for conflict victims in Colombia.
- g. Strengthening of social and argumentative abilities of women leaders of the communitarian councils.

Activity 2.3. Exchange of Experiences between COCOMACIA and the Communitarian Council of Darién.

Two Colombia exchanges were programmed and will be held later in the Project. The first one will be carried out between COCOMAUNGUÍA and COCOMACIA in the municipality of Quibdó in October 2014. The main topic will be making visible the experiences of gender affirmative actions in the collective territories during October. The second one, will take place during June in the Municipality of Unguía, and will be about the dissemination of good practices in the construction of *planes de ordenamiento* (land ordering plans) and ethno-development.

Activity 2.4. Complete participative sessions with Afrocolombian women to create exchange agendas, methodologies for testing, and the documentation of lessons learned.

There is no progress to report under this activity during this quarter since planning for the exchanges is scheduled for later in the program.

Objective 3: To strengthen the role of Afrocolombian women in terms of land access and land ordering of the Local Councils

Result 3. 220 Afrocolombian women incorporate land tenancy, conflict resolution, and use of the land in the ethno-development plans, using gender equality and leadership approaches.

Activity 3.1. Build capacity in terms of gender equality, as well as new masculinities and leadership in women for the ethnic-territorial planning, including the participation of men and youth.

Mercy Corps trained the board of directors of the Community Councils of COCOMACIA and COCOMAUNGUÍA in the use of tools for gender analysis stated in Mercy Corp's Gender Toolkit. These will be implemented in the activities with the Local Councils that are part of the Gender and New Masculinities trainings planned by the project.

Two of these tools were selected to be implemented during the training process. The dissemination of Mercy Corps Gender Toolkit needs to be completed with COCOMASUR during the first quarter of 2014.

During January 2014 the methodological proposal and the chronogram will be defined to begin the training on Gender and New Masculinities in the Greater Community Councils. The Collective of New Masculinities will be facilitating this process; they have been Mercy Corps' consultants since 2010.

Activity 3.2. Increase the participation and number of leadership positions of Afrocolombian women in the greater and local communitarian councils, in terms of gender equality in land tenancy and use of the land.

Mercy Corps' Monitoring and Evaluation and the Land Managing Units, in coordination with USAID, designed the baseline to monitor the advancements and growth of women's participation in decision making processes inside the Community Councils.

Activity 3.3 Design the guidelines to elaborate a self-made methodology for land ordering and ethno-development with a differential approach.

According to the chronogram, this activity is projected to be developed during the regional exchange in June 2014.

Activity 3.4 Promote an ethnic institutional dialogue roundtable between the Councils and government actors to strengthen leadership activities of Afrocolombian women, and to include them in initiatives for territorial development at the local level.

According to the workplan, this activity is projected to be developed during the first semester of CY 2014. It will be focused on coordinating activities with INCODER and the Victims Unit. In the framework of COCOMAUNGUIA's collective reparation plan of collective damage offered by the integral reparation policy for victims of the conflict, COCOMASUR will focus on the titling process of the collective territory in Acandí, Chocó.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps' technical team, USAID's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, and Management Systems International worked together in the enlistment process for the implementation and external evaluation of the project. MSI and the National Consultancy Center will conduct the evaluation between January and June 2014. During the period the previous approvals were obtained from the three Greater Community Councils participating in the project. The first phase for the collection of information was also developed in the field with COCOMAUNGUIA and COCOMACIA. As a result, the variables, techniques, and instruments to collect the information were defined, as well as the plan to gather the data in the field, which will be done during the first semester of 2014.

As a complement, a participative planning of the gender component was done with the Community Councils. It is part of the project's budget modification; therefore, adjustments to the work plan were made for the time period of June 2013-August 2014. The Councils of COCOMAUNGUIA and COCOMACIA delivered tools designed for the registration in the database and other requirements for the exact report of the project's indicators. Nevertheless, Mercy Corps will plan specific reunion to reinforce the use of the tools by the Councils during the first quarter of 2014.

4. Annex 1. Success Story

The Tanela Community and COCOMAUNGUIA: Advantages When Resolving Conflicts

Context

The farming community of Tanela, Choco—a group of farmers who relocated to vacant state lands—has two cases registered in the Unguía's Mediation Center: one dealing with natural resources and the other is a boundary dispute. The community of Tanela wants to do a series of actions on the riverbed such as drying out river channels and cutting trees in the buffer zone, and for that, it needs to consult with the Council of Black Communities, not only because they are their neighbors but because it will impact the Collective Territory. In addition, COCOMAUNGUIA and the Tanela community are trying to clarify their boundaries.



Picture No 6. Mediation Session, Ticole Choco.

The relationship between Tanela's community and the Black community have been tense. The Tanela community perceived the Black community as an obstacle to intervene in the territory, such as intrusions by the river, farms, and livestock activities. As a response, COCOMAUNGUIA has always aimed to be respectful with the Collective Territory by stating that there should not be interventions on the lands until the boundaries are clearly known, and requesting that any interventions or jobs on the river should be done as part of an Environmental Work Plan that respects the buffer zones protecting bodies of water) and takes away livestock from the lower parts of the river. From the perspective of COCOMAUNGUIA, the farmers are destroying the wetlands to introduce livestock, and the Council's responsibility is to take care and preserve such areas.

Achieving agreements for these cases will benefit more than 400 farming families in Tanela, and approximately 70 families of the Local Council of Black Communities in Marriaga. As a result, dialogues have been promoted between the parties, involving different actors that have an influence in the zone, such as: Codechocó, Apartado's Diocese, Mayor's Office of Unguía, Tanela leaders and Representatives from COCOMAUNGUIA and the Local Council of Marriaga.

The meetings promoted by the Tierras project to manage these situations include the following:

- Meeting between INCODER, Tanela leaders, and COCOMAUNGUIA, asking for support and interventions of such institution to clarify boundaries.
- Meetings between COCOMAUNGUIA, Tanela leaders, and a Catholic Priest, to look for ways to allow clarity on these situations.
- Meeting between the Mayor's Office, COCOMAUNGUIA, Codechocó, and Tanela leaders, to manage problems around natural resources, among others.

From the beginning of the Project, communication and agreements have been made between the Tanela community and COCOMAUNGUIA with the support of Codechocó for interventions that will mitigate the impact of the flooding during winter on the Tanela's riverbed; such areas were on red alert during the flooding of April 2011.

During the same time some initial agreements were made between the Tanela community, Codechocó, and COCOMAUNGUIA to build a *terraplén* (embankment) that will stop the flow of water and the flooding. These agreements were:

- Protection and recuperation of the buffer zones
- Nobody can use the territory of the black communities.
- Any intervention will be stopped in zones where there are no clear boundaries.
- An environmental impact study and an environmental plan must be done.
- The livestock that will be 50 meters from the river will be taken out.
- At the *terraplén* (embankment), a shoreline of 50 meters will be set and respected. It will be planted with trees and should not be used for livestock grazing.
- These decisions will be socialized during the Assembly of the Local Council of Marriaga before the beginning of the work.

However, the Tanela community did not wait for the socialization process with the Marriaga community, and the work started a year later in April 2012. The problem is still the same, the community did not respect the 50 meter area of protection around the river basin and has intensified the logging of *Kativos*² and the livestock activities in areas that were supposed to be respected according to the agreements, and where any livestock is prohibited.

This situation alarmed the Local Councils of the Black Communities and created a total opposition to any kind of intervention in the territory, moreover, because the interventions were carried out inside the Collective Territory. There were, and still are, no clear boundaries, so it became necessary to advance in a dialogue process before a new rainy season starts and the families will be put under dangerous situations again.

Mediation Session



Picture N 7. Mediation Session, Tanela

A Mediation Session was proposed between COCOMAUNGUIA and the Tanela Community with the participation of the Municipal Mayor's Office as a Mediator, and the Tierras' Project as a guarantor. The central points of this Mediation session were: erratic water course, river dredging, *terreplén* (embankment), protection, and conservation of the hydro round (ronda hídrica).

² Kativo is a tree native to South America that is located in humid mangrove areas and where the fish lay their eggs.

This Mediation Session had many previous actions such as: autonomous spaces for the Local Councils to discuss and internally analyze the situation; meeting with the Municipal Mayor, COCOMAUNGUA, the Tierras Project; meetings with the Tanela leaders, COCOMAUNGUA, and the Apartado's Diocese, among others, with the goal to gain interest from the parties and an ideal atmosphere for a negotiation that will benefit the vulnerable population.

The Mediation Sessions in Tanela from the beginning of the Project to the end of November 2013 had an argumentative but ultimately productive atmosphere, achieving agreements on the following:

1. Reactivation of a surveillance committee and follow up of the agreements between the communities of Tanela and the Greater Council of the Lower Atrato, COCOMAUNGUA.
2. Work development by phases to facilitate the verification –made by the Surveillance Committee- of the fulfilment of conditions and the presence of an environmental management Plan.
3. The Tanela community and the local authorities of the Municipality of Unguía committed themselves to promptly manage the necessary resources to move forward with the work needed to mitigate the impact of the winter season.

Learned Lessons



Picture no 8. Mediation Session, COCOMAUNGUA.

The value of this process has been to put together two communities that have always acted separately and have been in apparent dispute, to think of themselves as one beneficiary community, responsible for the management of natural resources and that is also sensitive to the vulnerability of the people living in high-risk areas.

As a result of these negotiations, a Monitoring and Follow up Committee was created to help accomplish the agreements made between the Council and the Tanela Community. The Committee has been working harmonically and in a coordinated manner through field visits and workshops (*jornadas de trabajo*). The project's socialization of information with authorities has created committed actions from the municipal administration. At this time, the territorial authorities (Mayor's Office and the Council) and the environmental authority (Codechocó) are beginning to take on more meaningful roles in this process regarding their accompaniment and co-responsibility since it is clear that the work needs resources and management. Currently, INCODER has taken over the case study process to define a route for boundary clarification and a definitive solution to the land conflict on a legal and social level.